

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR PGM/RC, VOA/PCX

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- OPPOSING US AND SOVIET VIEWS

1. IN A PAGE TWO COLUMN, JUNE 16, TITLED "GREAT POWERS OUT OF STEP", POLITIKA DISCUSSES PRESENT DISAGREEMENTS AND CONTRARY POINTS OF VIEW OF THE USA AND THE USSR: "IN THE WEST THEY MOST OFTEN PROCEED FROM THE CONVICTION THAT THE EAST, MEASURING THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE NEW AMERICAN HELMSMAN, HAS CONCLUDED THAT CARTER, BECAUSE OF HIS RELATIVELY NARROW POLITICAL BASE IN HIS COUNTRY, HAS LESS ROOM TO MANEUVER IN HIS POLICIES. HE IS WEAKER THAN HIS PREDESSORS WERE, OR SEEMED TO BE. IT WOULD BE SUITABLE, THEREFORE TO DO SOMETHING, ESPECIALLY THERE WHERE, AS IN AFRICA, THE CONDITIONS OBTAIN FOR GREATER POLITICAL AND MILITARY INVOLVEMENT OF THE OPPOSING SIDES."

2. FOR THOSE WHO ACCEPTED THIS EVALUATION OF SOVIET MOTIVES WITHOUT HESITATION, THERE WAS NO DILEMMA IN CHOOSING A RESPONSE. THEY SOUGHT AND OBTAINED SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTE INTERVENTIONS IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THUS, NOT ONLY AMERICAN MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANES BUT ALSO THE FRENCH LEGIONNAIRES BEGAN

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THEIR RETURN TO THE AFRICAN SCENE, AND NOT ONLY IN ZAIRE. AND ALL THIS DESPITE THE WARNINGS WHICH, ACCORDING TO LATEST REPORTS, ARE INCREASING IN INTENSITY: THAT AFRICA DOES NOT WANT TO GO EITHER EAST OR WEST BUT ITS OWN WAY, AND THAT IT NEEDS TO BE LEFT ALONE. AFRICA NEEDS HELP TO STAND ON ITS OWN TWO FEET, AND NOT A PATRON WHO THREATENS TO

DEPRIVE IT OF FREEDOM OBTAINED AT HIGHT COST.

3 THE SOVIET EVALUATION OF THE INCREASED TENSIONS IS, NATURALLY, DIAMETRICALLY CONTRARY. THE INTENTIONS WHICH WASHINGTON ASCRIBES TO MOSCOW ARE FOUND BY MOSCOW IN POLICY OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. CARTER'S SPEECH AT ANNOPOLIS--EVEN THOUGH THE CHIEF OF THE WHITE HOUSE REPEATED HIS READINESS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND COOPERATION--IS TAKEN AS PROOF THAT IN AMERICA THERE ARE INCLINATIONS TO TURN AWAY FROM DETENTE. THERE ARE BELLIGERENT PERSONS IN WASHINGTON TO WHOM EVEN CARTER HAS SUCCUMBED, WHO HAVE CONVINCED THEMSELVES THAT THE USSR AS A WHOLE IS WEAKER, ESPECIALLY IN THE INDUSTRIAL-TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETITION, AND THAT IT WILL REMAIN RELATIVELY SO COMPARED TO ITS WESTERN OPPONENTS. FROM THIS COMES THE INCLINATION TO BE MORE RESOLUTE WITH SUCH AN OPPONENT, WHICH IS EXPRESSED, AMONG OTHER WAYS, IN THE PRESSURES REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN DEVIATING FROM THE AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE REACHED WITH NIXON AND KISSINGER, WITH WHOM MOSCOW COULD MORE EASILY DEAL.

4. PROCEEDING FROM SUCH AN EVALUATION OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS, THE USSR EASILY CONCLUDED THAT WASHINGTON WAS ENGAGED IN UNADMISSIBLE BLACKMAIL.  
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NOR DID THEY SPARE THE LEADER OF THE USA, BUT THEY DID SINGLE OUT ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, CARTER'S MAIN ADVISOR, AS THE CHIEF SINNER. AFTER A WEEK'S VISIT TO CHINA, HIS STATEMENTS SOUNDED ANTI-SOVIET BECAUSE THEY WERE SOFT TOWARDS THE CHINESE.

5. AND SO THE POLEMICS CONTINUE, BUT ...IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BOTH SIDES, EVEN THOUGH MAKING THREATENING MOVES, ARE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO PUT INTO QUESTION THEIR FUNDAMENTAL MUTUAL INTERESTS. NEITHER OF THEM, FOR EXAMPLE, REJECTS SALT TALKS. ON THE CONTRARY, THEY BOTH ARE TRYING VERY HARD TO CONTINUE THEM. NEITHER HAS QUESTIONED THE INTERSTATE AND POLITICAL RELATIONS ALREADY ESTABLISHED. AND SO ON.....  
CATHERMAN

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